



TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND

County Council

MINUTES

August 8, 2023

Present – President Chuck Callahan, Vice President Pete Leshner, Keasha N. Haythe, Lynn L. Mielke, County Manager Clay Stamp, and County Attorney Patrick Thomas. Council Member Dave Stepp joined a portion of the meeting by telephone.

- I. Agenda – Mr. Callahan requested and received unanimous consent for approval of the Agenda of Tuesday, August 8, 2023.
- II. Minutes – Mr. Callahan requested and received unanimous consent for approval of the Minutes of Tuesday, July 11, 2023 and Tuesday, July 25, 2023.
- III. Disbursements – Mr. Callahan requested and received unanimous consent for approval of the Disbursements of Tuesday, August 1, 2023 and Tuesday, August 8, 2023.
- IV. Update by Chesapeake Multicultural Resource Center – Matthew Peters, Executive Director, Chesapeake Multicultural Resource Center; Victoria Gomez Lozano, Outreach Coordinator, Chesapeake Multicultural Resource Center – Mr. Peters briefed the Council on the history of the Chesapeake Multicultural Resource Center (“the Center”) which began in 2013 by offering after-school homework assistance to immigrant children and children of recent immigrants at Oasis Covenant Church in Easton; approximately 70 children now participate in the program held at Easton Elementary School four days a week; a hot meal is provided and approximately 150 children participate in other programs offered, including Cub Scouts for boys and girls, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) activities, the Healthy Habits nutritional program through Talbot Family Network, games, arts and crafts, band programs and field trips. He stated that the Center, which now occupies its own building on Dover Street in Easton, has increased its number of full-time staff from three to seven and will soon be adding one more. He stated that services provided by the Center include, among others, Department of Justice accredited immigration services, which have been provided to 1,500 individuals this year to date, and certified Health Navigator and SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) services. Mr. Peters stated that his organization is looking to expand its programming to the Federalsburg area of Caroline County; in FY2023, the Chesapeake Multicultural Resource Center provided 4,703 unique services, an increase from 1,500 in 2017. Mr. Peters and Ms. Gomez Lozano expressed their appreciation to the Council for their support. Council members expressed their appreciation to Mr. Peters and Ms. Gomez Lozano for the services they provide to the immigrant community.

The Clerk then read a proclamation into the record in recognition of the 10th anniversary of the Chesapeake Multicultural Resource Center of Talbot County. The proclamation spoke of the number and types of services provided to individuals new to our community and the United States, including housing, insurance, and services related to immigration, as well as referrals to various agencies for social services, legal and labor matters to assist them with assimilating into the community. Upon motion by Ms. Haythe, seconded by Ms. Mielke, the Council approved the proclamation by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye
Mr. Stepp – Aye (via telephone)
Mr. Leshner – Aye
Ms. Mielke – Aye
Ms. Haythe – Aye

- V. Update on Placement of Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Machines in County Parks – Brian LeCates, Director, Talbot County Department of Emergency Services; Wayne Dyott, President, Talbot County Paramedic Foundation, and Nicole Janes, Team Trace – Mr. Dyott updated the Council on the placement of public access automated external defibrillator (AED) stations throughout parks in Talbot County through the Talbot Paramedic Foundation’s partnership with Team Trace and the Talbot County Department of Emergency Services. Mr. Dyott stated that, to date, the stations have been placed in North Easton Park (4), Idlewild Park (2), and Home Run Baker Park (1); placement of the stations in the parks of Easton Middle School is being planned in the near future. He stated that Talbot Paramedic Foundation and Team Trace provide funding for equipment which is purchased through Talbot County and the Department of Emergency Services which maintains the equipment. He stated that the Paramedic Foundation has been working to get the word out at the parks on weekends as to the purpose of the stations and by providing demonstrations on use. He stated that the stations also now include an opioid overdose kit and a “stop the bleed” kit; with the expansion of the scope of the program the name has been changed from Talbot SAVE to Talbot CARES (Cardiac Arrest Rescue Emergency Stations). Ms. Janes outlined how she became involved in the community outreach program following the death of her godson, Kenneth Daryl “Trace” Knight, III, following complications from congenital heart defect surgery. She stated that in addition to working with the Talbot Paramedic Foundation, Team Trace supports research at the Children’s National Medical Center. Council members expressed their appreciation to everyone for the valuable service they provide to the Talbot County community. Rachel Cox, Special Programs Paramedic, Talbot County Department of Emergency Services, then gave a demonstration on the use of hands-on CPR and by using an AED device.

Ms. Cox presented Mr. Dyott and representatives of the Talbot Paramedic Foundation, and Nicole Janes, Team Trace, with certificates of appreciation for their dedication to providing life-saving technology for the citizens of, and visitors to, Talbot County.

- VI. Presentation of Certificates of Appreciation – The Clerk read proclamations into the record for the Talbot Paramedic Foundation and Team Trace which spoke of the dedication to the provision of emergency care to the citizens of, and visitors to, Talbot County, and the generous financial contributions of both organizations, in conjunction with the residents and businesses of Talbot County, to same. Mr. Callahan presented the proclamations to Wayne Dyott, President, Talbot Paramedic Foundation and Bill Wilson, Chairman, AED Program, Talbot Paramedic Foundation, and Nicole Janes and Dereck Janes of Team Trace.

Matt Watkins, EMS Division Chief, Talbot County Department of Emergency Services, briefed the Council on a recent incident on a morning in mid-July when Jim Gunshenan, the father of Sean Gunshenan, went into sudden cardiac arrest at their home and Sean applied his knowledge of CPR to help save his father’s life until emergency personnel arrived. Mr. Watkins emphasized the number of people involved in helping to save the life of one individual. The Clerk then read a proclamation into the record in recognition of the bravery and heroism displayed by Sean Gunshenan in helping to save the life of his father. Brian LeCates, Director, Talbot County Department of Emergency Services, read the wording of a life-saving award into the record which was presented to the following individuals who each played a part in saving the life of Mr. Jim Gunshenan: Sean Gunshenan; Sgt. Joe Timms, Talbot County Sheriff’s Office; Daniel Lloyd, Paramedic, Talbot County Department of Emergency Services; Josh Willis and RJ Jones, Communication Specialists, Talbot County 9-1-1 Center; Alexander Jewer and Tony Kapela, EMTs, Talbot County Department of Emergency Services; Dave Hall and Ben Diefenderfer, Paramedics, Talbot County Department of Emergency Services; and the University of Maryland Medical System Shore Regional Health Emergency Department. The Gunshenan family expressed their appreciation to everyone involved.

- VII. Discussion of July 21, 2023 Letter from the Maryland Department of the Environment and Request for Direction – Prior to Council discussion, County Attorney, Patrick Thomas stated that on July 21, 2023, the Council received a letter from the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and a subsequent email from Dinorah Dalmasy of MDE which were follow-ups to the letters from MDE dated April 24, 2023 and May 9, 2023 regarding the water and sewer maps for the Town of Trappe and the equivalent dwelling units (EDUs) for all phases of the Lakeside development. Mr. Thomas stated that the letter advised that, based on the initial review by MDE, the draft maps provided by the County for clarification of the existing water and sewer classifications for the Town, and which were shown during the July 19, 2023 work session with the Town, meet the intent of the request by MDE for reclassification. He stated that MDE clarified that it is seeking the EDUs for all phases of the Lakeside development, regardless of the existing water and sewer classifications, with the request that the first phase be final and the remaining phases be best estimates, as known at present. Mr. Thomas stated MDE has requested that the draft water and sewer maps and the EDU information be submitted to them by August 31st, either as a part of the DRAFT 2023 Report of the Review (Option 1) or as stand-alone amendments to the Comprehensive Water and Sewer Plan (Options 2). Mr. Thomas concluded his comments by stating that the DRAFT 2023 Report of the Review is ready to be released to the public for review and comment upon incorporation of the information related to the EDUs; he requested Council direction whether to proceed with same or to draft stand-alone resolutions for introduction on Tuesday, August 22, 2023. Council discussion ensued with Mr. Thomas and Ray Clarke, County Engineer. At Council's request, Mr. Clarke outlined the development of the DRAFT 2023 Report of the Review to date, including review by each of the municipalities, the Public Works Advisory Board and the Talbot County Planning Commission, noting that comments and responses are posted on the County website. Council discussion ensued with Mr. Clarke and Mr. Thomas regarding the process for each option, the advantages of each, and timeframes for same. Upon motion by Ms. Mielke, seconded by Mr. Stepp, the Council approved moving forward with Option 1 by voting 4 – 1 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye
Mr. Stepp – Aye (via telephone)
Mr. Leshar – Nay
Ms. Mielke – Aye
Ms. Haythe - Aye

VIII. Eligible for Vote:

Bill No. 1538, A BILL TO AUTHORIZE IMPROVEMENTS TO AND EXPANSION OF THE CHAPEL DISTRICT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for vote. Prior to the vote Mr. Leshar stated that during the public hearing on the Bill No. 1538, the Council heard about the importance of moving forward and stated that matching funds from the State are already in place. The Council voted to approve Bill No. 1538 by voting 5 - 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye
Mr. Stepp – Aye (via absentee ballot)
Mr. Leshar – Aye
Ms. Mielke – Aye
Ms. Haythe – Aye

Bill No. 1538 becomes effective as provided for in the legislation.

Mr. Stepp left the meeting at 6:28 p.m.

Bill No. 1545, A BILL TO AMEND CHAPTER 20 OF THE TALBOT COUNTY CODE (BOARD OF APPEALS) FOR CLARITY AND CONSISTENCY AND REGARDING THE BOARD OF APPEALS' PROCEEDINGS, FORMS, HEARINGS, AND PROCEDURES, was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for vote. Ms. Mielke made a motion to postpone the vote on Bill No 1545 until Tuesday, August 22, 2023 in order that she might have time to propose an amendment for Council's consideration; Mr. Leshner seconded motion and the Council approved postponing the vote on Bill No. 1545 until the Council meeting of Tuesday, August 22, 2023 by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye
Ms. Mielke – Aye
Ms. Haythe - Aye

Bill No. 1546, A BILL TO AUTHORIZE A FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR, AND POSSIBLE FUTURE CONSTRUCTION OF, A TALBOT COUNTY VISITORS CENTER, was read into the record by the Clerk and brought forward for vote. Prior to the vote, Mr. Leshner provided a brief outline of the purpose of the proposed capital project. The Council approved Bill No. 1546 by voting 5 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye
Mr. Stepp – Aye (via absentee ballot)
Mr. Leshner – Aye
Ms. Mielke – Aye
Ms. Haythe - Aye

IX. County Manager's Report:

- A. Request for Letter of Support – Requested Council's consideration to forward a letter in support of federal legislation for the establishment of a Chesapeake National Recreation Area as part of the National Park system. Cassandra Vanhooser, Director, Talbot County Department of Economic Development and Tourism, stated that federal legislation introduced in the U.S. Senate by Sen. Van Hollen and Sen. Sarbanes on July 27, 2023, would designate five (5) sites along the Chesapeake Bay as National Recreation Areas. She noted the national recognition such a designation would mean from the perspectives of both economic development and tourism. Alyssa Hastings, Eastern Shore Regional Director, Office of Senator Chris Van Hollen, outlined the proposal in further detail, emphasizing that participation is strictly voluntary. Council discussion ensued with Ms. Vanhooser and Ms. Hastings. At Ms. Mielke's request, a work session will be scheduled at a later date in order to provide the public an opportunity to comment on the proposal prior to Council's vote on same. Council discussion again ensued with Ms. Vanhooser and Ms. Hastings.
- B. Request from Hog Neck Golf Course – Requested Council approval to have Hog Neck Golf Course enter in to a contract for the purchase of a portable restroom trailer for the Hog Neck Golf Course Event Pavilion from the lowest proposer, Portable Restroom Trailers, LLC in the sum of \$107,500; funding for the purchase is included in the FY24 budget. Council discussion ensued with Rich Setter, Head Golf Professional/General

Manager, Hog Neck Golf Course who stated that the lack of a restroom at the Event Pavilion is a hindrance to bookings. Upon motion Mr. Leshner, seconded by Ms. Mielke, the Council approved the purchase by voting 3 – 0 – 1 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye
Ms. Mielke – Aye
Ms. Haythe - Abstain

- C. Request from Facilities Maintenance – Requested Council approval of the purchase of a replacement chiller and cooling tower for the Talbot County Courthouse in the sum of \$118,702.50; funding for the purchase is included in the FY24 capital budget and will be made by piggybacking on a State contract with Queen Anne’s County. Council discussion ensued with Brian Moore, Superintendent, Roads and Facilities Maintenance. Upon motion by Mr. Leshner, seconded by Ms. Haythe, the Council approved the purchase by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye
Ms. Mielke – Aye
Ms. Haythe - Aye

- D. Bid No. 23-09, GOLDSBOROUGH NECK ROAD AND GLEBE ROAD CULVERT REPLACEMENT – EASTON – TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLAND - Requested Council approval of the County Engineer’s recommendation to award Bid No. 23-09 to the sole bidder, David A. Bramble, Inc. in the sum of \$591,109.00; requested approval to award Verizon \$72,864.42 for the relocation of two (2) of their pedestals and associated cables in order that the roadwork does not impact the Verizon infrastructure. Upon motion by Mr. Leshner, seconded by Ms. Haythe, the Council approved the award by voting 4 – 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan – Aye
Mr. Leshner – Aye
Ms. Mielke – Aye
Ms. Haythe – Aye

- E. Mr. Stamp concluded the County Manager’s Report by stating that, in his opinion, the presentations made earlier in the Council meeting by various groups represent the true face of Talbot County and is what sets Talbot County apart from other communities.

X. Public Comments: There were no public comments.

XI. Council Comments:

Ms. Haythe: No comments.

Ms. Mielke: Ms. Mielke concurred with Mr. Stamp’s comments and stated that she is impressed with our emergency personnel – what they do, how they do it – their dedication and their hearts.

Mr. Leshner Mr. Leshner expressed his appreciation to emergency services personnel, the Sheriff’s Office, the Roads Department, and all those involved in

responding to those impacted by the recent storm which put a number of people around the county in danger. He stated that some lost power and some saw property damage, but all situations were responded to quickly by our personnel. He stated that today he drove by crews on Miles River Road installing fiber cable, and although traffic was slowed for the work, he had never been so happy to be stopped to wait for road workers than to see the rapid installation of fiber. He stated that we are seeing customers get connected, although he is still receiving calls from citizens wondering why they cannot get connected sooner. He stated that he has been assured by the County's partners at Easton Utilities that the installation is moving along as fast as it possibly can. Mr. Leshner expressed his appreciation to all those who helped obtain funding for the project and to get the installation of broadband to every unserved and underserved address in the county.

Mr. Callahan: Mr. Callahan expressed his appreciation to emergency services personnel, and stated that, in his opinion, we have some of the best emergency services he has ever seen and he is proud to be a part of it, noting that as exhibited earlier, it took a team of 20 to save a life. He concurred with Mr. Leshner's comments regarding the response of the roads crew to emergency situations.

Upon motion by Ms. Haythe, seconded by Ms. Mielke, the Council voted to adjourn and to reconvene on Tuesday, August 22, 2023 in Open Session at 3:30 p.m. and immediately adjourn into Closed Session for discussion of matters as listed on the statement for closing that meeting; and for the regularly scheduled meeting at 5:00 p.m. by voting 4 - 0 as follows:

Mr. Callahan - Aye
Mr. Leshner - Aye
Ms. Mielke – Aye
Ms. Haythe - Aye

The meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

The transcript of the August 8, 2023 County Council meeting is available for review in the Office of the Talbot County Manager during regular office hours.

XII. Summary of Closed Session Held on August 8, 2023:

1. Statement of the time, place, and purpose of the closed session:

Time of closed session: begin: 3:35 p.m. recess: 3:50 p.m. reconvene: 4:30 p.m. end:
4:40 p.m.
Place of closed session: County Council Office
Purpose of the closed session: To consider various matters as set forth in the statement for
closing the meeting

2. Record of the vote of each member as to closing the session:

Names of members voting aye: Callahan, Leshner, Haythe, Mielke
Members opposed: None
Abstaining: None

Absent: Stepp

3. Statutory authority to close session and listing of each topic actually discussed, persons present, and each action taken in the session:

Topic Description	Statutory Authority	Reason for Closed Session Discussion	Persons Present	Action Taken
To consult with County Attorney regarding Open Meetings Act complaint	GP § 3-305(b)(7)(8)	Attorney-client privilege regarding legal advice and status of litigation	Chuck Callahan, Pete Leshner, Keasha Haythe Lynn Mielke, Clay Stamp, Patrick Thomas, Jessica Morris	No action
For update on legal matter regarding State vs. Christopher Worthy (C-20-CR-23000106)	GP § 3-305(b)(7)(8)	Attorney-client privilege regarding status of litigation	Chuck Callahan, Pete Leshner, Keasha Haythe Lynn Mielke, Clay Stamp, Patrick Thomas, Jessica Morris, Martha Sparks	No action
To discuss proposal for business to expand in County	GP § 3-305(b)(4)	To protect the County’s bargaining position regarding the potential expansion of a business in the County	Chuck Callahan, Pete Leshner, Keasha Haythe Lynn Mielke, Clay Stamp, Patrick Thomas, Jessica Morris, Cassandra Vanhooser	No action

CASH STATEMENT 08/01/2023

BALANCE 7/25/2023	94,210,324.21
RETURNED PAYMENTUS PAYMENTS	(9,140.57)
RETURNED CHECK #48755	(315.00)
DEPOSITS	16,613,457.54

CHECKS	(1,047,662.07)
ACH DISBURSEMENT(S)	(1,580,644.83)
WIRE TRANSFERS	(4,244,035.00)
INTRA ACCOUNT TRANSFERS	(153,343.62)
VOIDED CHECK(S) #	300.00
VOIDED WIRE #	0.00

BALANCE 08/01/2023 **103,788,940.66**

INVESTMENTS - CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT

<u>Certificate Date</u>	<u>Maturity Date</u>	<u>Yield</u>	<u>Amount</u>
PNC-MLGIP INVESTMENTS TOTAL		5.23%	21,083,585.91
BAYVANGUARD BANK			10,306,956.18

TOTAL INVESTED **31,390,542.09**

PETTY CASH BALANCE **18,105.00**

GRAND TOTAL ALL FUNDS **135,197,587.75**

CASH STATEMENT 08/08/2023

BALANCE 8/01/2023	103,788,940.66
TOTAL ADP PAYROLL PPE 7/21/2023	(834,704.10)
TOTAL ADP MONTHLY PAYROLL PPE 7/31/2023	(18,333.62)
PENSION DED PPE 7/21/2023	(49,555.49)
PENSION DED PPE 7/31/2023	(981.29)
DEFERRED COMP DED PPE 7/21/2023	(20,965.61)
DEFERRED COMP PPE 7/21/2023 PLAN 401(A)	(8,857.69)

ENTERPRISE LEASE PYMT 7/2023	(16,190.16)
DEPOSITS	15,890,714.28
CHECKS	(225,415.69)
ACH DISBURSEMENT(S)	(692,159.89)
WIRE TRANSFERS	(563,227.18)
INTRA ACCOUNT TRANSFERS	(240,036.78)
VOIDED CHECK(S) #	0.00
VOIDED WIRE #	0.00
BALANCE 08/08/2023	<u>117,009,227.44</u>

INVESTMENTS - CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT

<u>Certificate Date</u>	<u>Maturity Date</u>	<u>Yield</u>	<u>Amount</u>
PNC-MLGIP INVESTMENTS TOTAL		5.27%	21,083,585.91
BAYVANGUARD BANK			10,306,956.18
TOTAL INVESTED			<u>31,390,542.09</u>
PETTY CASH BALANCE			<u>18,105.00</u>
<u>GRAND TOTAL ALL FUNDS</u>			<u>148,417,874.53</u>